

Rail Safety Exercise

On April 9, the City of Mount Vernon completed a goal from our public safety pod plan for 2014 by leading the participation in a rail safety “roundtable” exercise. Sixty-nine regional emergency responders representing 36 agencies gathered to talk through a hypothetical derailment of a train. The event was hosted and facilitated by the Skagit County Department of Emergency Management in cooperation with the City of Mount Vernon.

Those in attendance ranged from local emergency response officials, BNSF railway representatives, Shell and Tesoro refineries, Red Cross, and staffers from the offices of U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Congressman Rick Larsen.

The hypothetical scenario used for the tabletop exercise included a train derailment as a result of a collision between a semi-truck and BNSF “unit train” at the College Way intersection.

As details of the drill scenario were revealed, potential responders in the audience were invited to weigh in regarding the personnel, equipment and services they might provide. Challenges ranging from medical injuries and interagency/public communications to traffic issues and incident command organization were also discussed.

BNSF Regional Director of Public Affairs Courtney Wallace said, “Participating in these types of exercises is very important as they give us an opportunity to collaborate with our partners in the communities where we operate. We are able to learn from each other and further our mutual goal of safety and security.”

Mount Vernon Fire Chief Roy Hari will continue to lead the City’s emergency response disaster planning by following up with a list of items to consider if the City experienced an actual train disaster. Work will be completed by September to be ready for the next exercise planned.

Thank you to Emergency Management Director Mark Watkinson for organizing the event and Steve Berentson for the photos and press information.



City of Mount Vernon Earns WellCity Award

The City of Mount Vernon has earned a WellCity Award for the fourth year in a row. This award is given by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) to cities that make an outstanding commitment to employee health. Well Cities receive a 2% premium discount on their medical premiums, which is significant in today’s economy. It’s been proven that a WellCity also benefits from reduced costs with decreased sick days, disability, health care claim costs, and workers’ comp. In addition, employees are more productive, have higher morale, better quality of life, and serve our citizens to their full potential.



Mayor’s Coffee Hours

Thursday, April 17

12:00 - 1:30 pm

Community Action of Skagit County
320 Pacific Place, Community Room

**Special Coffee Hour in honor of National Volunteer Week*

Saturday, April 26

9:00 - 10:00 am

Meet at the parking lot at 2700 Martin Road and walk the
Skagit Valley Playfields Trail with the Mayor

Friday, May 2

12:00 - 1:00 pm

Skagit Station Community Room
105 E. Kincaid Street



Kiwanis Park Volunteer Work Party

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Saturday, April 26
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Mount Vernon Police/Court Campus
1805 Continental Place

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

Protect our kids, families, and the environment by properly disposing of your unwanted or expired medicines at the Mount Vernon Police Department.

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Friday, April 25, 3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, April 26, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Fire Station #1
901 S. 2nd Street
(You can park at the Library parking lot and walk over to the sale)

Check our website
www.mountvernonwa.gov
for Parks and Recreation offerings

Mayor Jill Boudreau
910 Cleveland Avenue
P.O. Box 809
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

360.336.6211
www.mountvernonwa.gov



Statewide 911 Outage Response

The Statewide 911 phone link service went down in the early morning hours of Thursday, April 10. This was the first time any of the current City staff can remember having lost this important link. When folks tried to dial "911" they got a busy signal. The alternate seven digit numbers (or 10 digit with area code) were always functional, as well as radio and computers for the dispatchers.

You can be proud of Fire Chief Roy Hari and Police Chief Jerry Dodd, who responded to the 911 center to assist in problem solving the situation. At the time we did not know what had caused the statewide outage, or how long the system would be down.

A decision was made to utilize the **MyStateUSA emergency notification system** to alert residents to use a seven digit number in order to reach 911 emergency services. Alerts were posted on the **City website front page**, **emails were sent through the City list-serve for the Mayors e-Newsletter and Police e-Newsletter**, and **postings were placed on social media accounts**. In addition, police officers travelled throughout the City alerting any stores that were open overnight and early morning coffee stands to help assist in spreading the word.

Statewide services were restored at approximately 7:30 a.m. At a morning debriefing, City employees discussed other measures to spread the word in an emergency situation such as utilizing the **Block Watch program** and **'reverse 911' calls to phone lines**.

PLEASE consider signing up for the MyStatesUSA Emergency Notification system at www.skagit911.com!

Representative Jeff Morris Visits Mayor's Coffee Hour

Thank you to State Representative Jeff Morris (10th District) for visiting with attendees of the Mayor's Coffee Hour on April 11. Jeff was able to give more information about work in the State legislature and organized a conference call with officials after the 911 outage. Thank you, Jeff, for your support of Mount Vernon!



Waterfront Project Update

Work on the concrete walkway and floodwall adjacent to the river continues. The contractor will begin applying decorative brick to the floodwall.

Main Street between Myrtle and Gates Street is closed to vehicle traffic for construction of the pedestrian plaza park. Installation of the underground storm tank system will begin this week.



This project remains on schedule to be complete by September 2014.